A PROPOSED AUTONOMY MODEL

A PRESENTATION BY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FOR NIP AUTONOMY COMMITTEE
MR. PEDI ANIS, OBE
FORMER PREMIER OF NIP
New Ireland called for autonomy of the highest kind since 2008.

East New Britain Called for Autonomy since 2002. Enga joined immediately after.

Many people have misunderstood our quest for autonomy to mean seeking independence from the rest of Papua New Guinea and planning to follow the path of Bougainville. That is not correct.

Because of the word *autonomy*, which came to be used in reference to the case of Bougainville, other provinces calling for autonomy are also suspected to be following Bougainville, and accordingly, misunderstood.

WHEN WE SAY AUTONOMY OF THE HIGHEST KIND, IT MEANS WHAT THE CONSTITUTION REFERS TO AS SUBSTANTIAL DECENTRALIZATION.

IT MEANS DEVOLUTION OF MORE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS UNDER S.42 OF THE ORGANIC LAW ON PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS & LOCAL-LEVEL GOVERNMENTS.
AUTONOMY MODEL

- POLITICAL AUTONOMY
- ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY
- FINANCIAL AUTONOMY
The attainment of some level of independence in relation to the decision making process and the funding and control of development aspirations of the Province.
The maintenance of the Province as an integral part of Papua New Guinea and at the same time establishing a collaborative relationship with the National Government in the administration and governance of the country.
The sharing of functions and powers relating to wealth, grants and aid, with each other (National Govt & Autonomous Govt)
WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

DRAFTED CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) LAW ON AUTONOMY. This law inserts a new Part XV in the Constitution to authorise the granting of an autonomous government to the provinces.

DRAFTED ORGANIC LAW ON THE AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENTS. This law gives effect to Part XV (autonomous government) of the Constitution, by specifying the details, systems, powers and the processes to be used to enable the granting and the establishment of autonomous governments to the Provinces. This law revolutionises the legal regime on governance, in particular with the sharing of powers, wealth and resources between the National Government and the Provinces.
HINDRANCES

- Relevant Government Departments and State Agencies inability to appreciate, assess and facilitate autonomy for provinces as directed by the National Government under Alotau Accord 1 and 2 of 2012 and 2017.
- The proposed Organic Law on Decentralisation is given prominence hence the autonomy proposed laws have been given less or no attention by relevant government agencies.
- Political Commitment is clear for ENBP, NIP and Enga to pilot autonomy but have not been assisted by the relevant government agencies in Waigani, hence taken us 13 years of commitment, hard work, and huge cost to the provinces, especially NIP.
- Failure by relevant National Government Ministers to facilitate NEC Submission on Autonomy for proposed laws to be enacted by Parliament.
- Failure to establish a body with its own secretariat to help provide advise to the National Government and implement autonomy in PNG.
WAY FORWARD

- NEC should consider and approve the Autonomy Submission and the proposed Constitutional laws for enactment by Parliament.

- Grant Autonomy to the pilot provinces followed by other provinces or failing that the future of the unity of our country is at stake especially, pressure from resource provinces. Grant autonomy to avoid disunity and disintegration.

- Set up a National Coordinating body on autonomy to coordinate, monitor, assess, supervise and implement autonomy in PNG.